



OFFICE OF MAYOR VIRG BERNERO
124 W. MICHIGAN AVENUE – NINTH FLOOR
LANSING, MI 48933

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Friday, March 18, 2016

CONTACT: Randy Hannan
(517) 483-4147

Women's Premier Soccer League Team Lands in Lansing

*Officials also Announce Hope Sports Complex will Host First-Ever
Mexican Women's National Soccer Team vs. MSU Spartans*

(LANSING) – Mayor Virg Bernero today joined the principals of the Hope Sports Complex/Chill SBC Soccer, the Greater Lansing Sports Authority and other stakeholders for two exciting announcements about the future of women's soccer in the metro Lansing region.

The officials announced that women's soccer in Lansing will take a major leap forward by the addition of Michigan Chill SC -- a Women's Premier Soccer League (WPSL) team that will be based at Hope Sports Complex in south Lansing. Julie Mullin, general manager of the complex and owner of the Chill SBC Soccer Club, said Michigan Chill SC will draw national and international caliber women players, as well as top collegiate talent. The WPSL is currently the 2nd highest league for female players in the United States.

Mayor Bernero said the addition of a high-level women's soccer team is tremendous news for the region and demonstrates Lansing's growing enthusiasm for one of the most popular sports in the world. "Soccer is on fire in metro Lansing," Bernero said. "The Lansing United men's team, based in East Lansing, has an enthusiastic following of fans and Michigan Chill SC is going to take our regional soccer assets to another level altogether. The fact that the new women's team will be based in south Lansing is incredibly exciting news."

Chill SBC Executive Director Ben Jones said: "We are proud to bring this unique opportunity to metro Lansing. Our WPSL team will provide youth female players with great role models and a team they can aspire to play on as they progress through the club. It is yet another exciting addition to the growing Chill SBC Soccer Club."

[more]

Mike Price, executive director of the Greater Lansing Sports Authority, said the new women's team will also create new synergies in the metro Lansing economy. "Michigan Chill SC will drive new growth in our sports-related economy by attracting thousands of fans to their matches and bringing new business to area hotels, restaurants and others. That's very exciting news for metro Lansing, and south Lansing in particular," Price said.

Michigan Chill SC has named Jorge Eufracio as the team's head coach. Coach Eufracio brings a wealth of experience at the highest levels of the women's game, having served previously as assistant coach of FC Indiana women's professional team between 2007 and 2009 in the now dissolved USL W-League. He has also spent several years working at the international level, serving in a variety of roles with the youth national teams of Mexico and the Republic of Ireland.

Coach Eufracio has been heavily involved in the youth female club system during his coaching career and in 2015 was awarded Girls Competitive Coach of the Year for Region II by US Youth Soccer and finished as national runner up in that category. Throughout the last 20 years, he has served Indiana's youth female players in a variety of roles, including Club Coach, Technical Director, Director of Coaching and a High School Coach. He will be honored at the 2017 NSCAA Convention in Los Angeles for his service to the Latin coaching community.

Mayor Bernero and Chill SBC officials also announced that the Hope Sports Complex next month will host the first-ever soccer match between the Mexican U20 women's national soccer team and the MSU Spartans women's soccer team. The match will be played at 7 p.m. on April 18, 2016 and is expected to draw thousands of soccer fans to the Hope Sports Complex. The launch of Michigan Chill SC will also be highlighted in a special ceremony at halftime.

According to Chill SBC officials, the U20 Mexican national team typically only chooses one location in the United States per year and the match normally sells out. "The Lansing region is blessed that the team chose Lansing and the Hope Sports Complex for this exciting match against the MSU women's soccer team," said Julie Mullin. "We encourage people to come support the match so that we can show our friends from Mexico how welcoming we are so that they return again next year!"

"The potential we saw for the Hope Sports Complex to become one of the best multi-sports venues in Michigan is taking shape right before our eyes," Bernero said. "These are very exciting developments and I'm thrilled that the Mullins have met and exceeded our expectations in every way. And stay tuned, the best is yet to come for Chill SBC and the Hope Sports Complex because Julie and her colleagues have even bigger dreams."

###